

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19th, 2021

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”

Ephesians 2:8



Image: “And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. And He shall be their peace.” (*Micah 5:4-5a*)

Welcome to Grace!

We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather “*He Shall Be Their Peace*”

“*And He shall be their peace.*” That is how the prophet Micah described the coming Messiah. God's people will not find their peace in a big bank account. Nor will our peace be found in being part of the right social circle. Nor will our peace be found in a political leader or even in a political ideology. Nor will our peace be found in our living good and upright lives. Our peace is found in the Messiah, in Jesus, in the Good Shepherd whose strength is the Lord. Mary's circumstances were difficult; the angel's announcement of her pregnancy had to be quite a surprise. Pondering all these things in her heart, she found peace in God, who blessed her. So, she sang God's praises, a song that we sing still today, the *Magnificat*, a powerful reminder that “*He shall be their peace.*”

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service—Divine Service Setting 1

✧ PREPARATION ✧

Opening Hymn 347

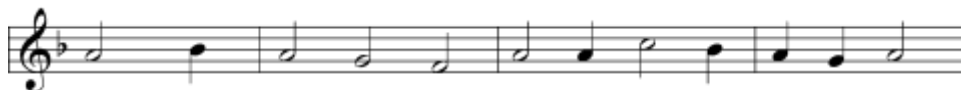
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (vs. 1-4)



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Confession and Absolution

LSB 151

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47, Spoken responsively*)

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.
My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
There is none holy | like the LORD;*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.
The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
The LORD kills and | brings to life;*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
The LORD makes poor and | makes rich;*
he brings low and | he exalts.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to
the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the
sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Micah 5:2-5a*

(Out of little Bethlehem will be born a ruler for God's people, a Good Shepherd, who will bring peace.)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt. We read the Gradual responsively*)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Reading *Hebrews 10:5-10*

(Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we live.)

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

- C Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Verse *Matthew 1:23a*

“Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.”

Holy Gospel *Luke 1:39-56*

(Even while in Mary’s womb, the presence of Jesus caused Elizabeth and the baby in her womb to rejoice!)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

- C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth

and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "A Little Town" (Micah 5:2-5) *The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)*



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Sermon: “Mary’s Song” (Luke 1:39-56)

- C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Offering/Attendance As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting: **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our website at: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘*online giving*’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

Prayer of the Church (After each petition the Pastor will say, “Lord in Your mercy,” and the congregation responds saying, “Hear our prayer.”)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- P The Lord be with you.
 C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
 C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request.

Distribution Hymns:

797 Praise the Almighty (vs. 1-5)



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
 2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
 3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er
 4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
 △ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
 Earth - born they are and soon de - cay; Vain are their
 Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -
 Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
 Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
 va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
 be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
 grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no
 hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in
 God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
 heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with

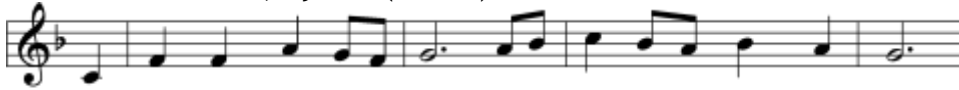


all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul (vs. 1-6)



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
 3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
 4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
 For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
 'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
 He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

- 5 He fills the poor with good;
 He gives the suff'ers rest.
 The Lord hath judgments for the proud
 And justice for th'oppressed.
- 6 His wondrous works and ways
 He made by Moses known,
 But sent the world His truth and grace
 By His belovèd Son.

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
 He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
 with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C Amen.

Sit

Closing Hymn 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (vs. 1-4)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high-ly fa-vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

c: Thanks be to God!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Pam Umaski (healing & strength); Terri Meyer (cancer); Pastor Bill Wurm, Pastor Taggatz's father-in-law; Angela Strasse (cancer) friend of Taggatz family; Leigh Schmeiser (healing); Julia Oelke (Army National Guard Medic and her Unit deployed) Debbie Oelke's daughter; Milwaukee Police Officers; Tom Janes (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother; Bev Burette (healing & strength); Donna Horkan (healing & strength) sister of June Roewer; Greg Puetz (healing & strength); Jay (cancer) friend of Lisa Kamprath; Randy (cancer) Lori Kachelmeier's brother; Tom Adams, relative of Pauline Parker; Shirley Stachowiak (cancer) Sharon Iseli's niece; Ken Dotson (healing & strength) Brother of Glenn Dotson; Larry Abelt Sr. (healing & strength) Leah Abelt's Father-in-Law; Kevin (healing & strength) Katie Nowack's friend; Andie (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier. Sindy Schmidt (back issues) friend of Lori Kachelmeier; Tim (surgery) Donna Dotson's brother; Gordon (healing) relative of Janine Pieper, Renee Lutzke (healing); Joe Handle; Michelle Stein (cancer) Sister in law of Pat Toman; Christine (healing) friend of Jill Nowack; Bryghtten (healing) relative of Carol Thurber; Greg Nowakowski (healing & strength); Myles King (blood disorder) son of Matthew & Meredith King; Jim Haas (healing & strength) relative of Donna Dotson.

For our Homebound Members at Grace: Carol Loveall, Betty Lemmer, Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, June Roewer, Art Steinborn, Ernst & Patricia Groth, and Gloria Kilponen.

We mourn with the families of **Harold Parker** and **Marion Heinen** (grandmother of Ben Heinen) as they were recently called home to heavenly rest. May God give them comfort in the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation we have through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issue; Hear our prayer.

We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com. **If you do not have access to a computer you may call:**

Prayers for worship:		Church Office	414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am–3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Thursday 6:30 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Tom Hengst	Brandon Dachel	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Kathryn Szflinski	Glenn Dotson	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>		Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolytes</u>			Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Ushers</u>	Jim Robinson	Larry Herte, Andrea Szeflinski, Tommy Szeflinski	Mike Huber, Bob Olen, Eric Kamprath

2022 Altar Flowers

- ❖ Sign-up for 2022 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex.
- ❖ Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.
- ❖ Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.
- ❖ You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.
- ❖ Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services.
- ❖ Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. DO NOT put money in an envelope and put it in the offering baskets. Thank you.

Mitten Tree

Once again this year, the Mitten Tree has been placed in the narthex. Guild will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns group. Please help us to “decorate” the tree! *All sizes are needed!* If you are a knitter or crocheter...Pauline Parker has bins of yarn to be used for this project...please reach out to her if you need some.

Christmas Cards: Please consider sending Christmas cards to the homebound members and to those on the prayer line. There will be Christmas cards and stamps on the table in the back of church. Thank you!

Your 2022 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childcare Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you! ****Please do not use until January 2022.****

2021 Holiday Worship Schedule & Lutheran Hour Ministries Devotional for Advent

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23: NO WORSHIP

Friday, Dec. 24th 4pm, 5:30pm-Christmas Eve “Shining in the Darkness” (Isaiah 9.2-7)

Saturday, Dec. 25th 9:30am-Christmas Day “Infinite Gifts in Finite Wrappings” (John 1; Ex. 40; Titus 3)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH: ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY - 9:00 AM (No Adult Bible Class/Sunday School)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH: NO WORSHIP

Friday, Dec. 31st 4:00pm-New Year’s Eve “But Deliver Us This Day Our Daily Evil” (Psalm 90)

LUTHERAN HOUR -"Charlie Brown Christmas Tree" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The drama surrounding the first airing of "The Charlie Brown Christmas Special" 56 years ago, against all odds, it gave viewers the true story of Christmas and doomed aluminum Christmas trees to near extinction. (Luke 2:1-15) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org** scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	103.3	FM	Sun	6:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	6:30 AM

IN THE WORD FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Catechism: Creed—Second Article

Verse of the week: John 1:14, *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 138

Hymn of the week: (LSB 382) “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—“Make Straight the Way of the Lord”—John 1:19-28

Monday— The Annunciation—Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday— St. Thomas, Apostle: John 20:24-29

Wednesday— Prayer for God’s Final Judgment—2 Thess. 1:3-12

Thursday— The Birth of Christ is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25

Friday— Christmas Eve: Luke 2:1-20

Saturday—Christmas Day: John 1:1-18

Stewardship Minute—Why do we decorate our Christmas trees with lights? Of course, we enjoy the beauty of those lights, especially in a darkened room, but take some time this Christmas season to meditate in that quiet dark room where your tree stands all aglow. Think about what those lights represent: the Son of God, in whom *“...was life, and that life was the light of men”* (John 1:4). Then *“...testify concerning that light, so that through Him all men might believe”* (John 1:7). Use all the strength God gives you to tell others that Jesus is *“the light of the world.”* (John 9:5).

IT’S FUN TO GET GIFTS AT

**CHRISTMAS, BUT THINGS OF
THE WORLD DO NOT OFFER
LASTING SATISFACTION.**

“Whoever drinks the water I give
him will never thirst...the water I
give him will become in him a spring
of water welling up to eternal life”
(John 4:14).



“In carols of Christmas, you’ll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You’ll hear of deliverance: ‘Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...’ There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death’s days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David.” *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM—When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. *****Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:** Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT(800-847-4836) and state " *Thrivent Choice.*"

For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:
<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

Poinsettias for Christmas!

**There will be 24 poinsettias placed this year to decorate our
worship space**

In honor/memory of:

Janice Barrett (family)	Stan Gumm (wife)	LeRoy Handle (wife)
Sandy Hamburger (husband)	Darlene Urbaniak	Tony Mirenda
Larry & Sandy Herte (son)	Barb & Mike Huber	Ron & Mary Savarino
Dave Stecker	Greg & Gail Nowakowski	The Dachel Family
Lowell Johnson	Leah Abelt	Gail Olen
Sharon Russell (mother)	Christine Cooksy	Lori Jablonski (husband, son)
Amy Pankow (father)	Mark & Jennifer Olen (Susan Olsen)	Bev Buretta

Let the holiday shopping begin!

Do you plan on buying gift cards for anyone this holiday season?

Grace Lutheran participates in a fundraising program called Scrip, where you can purchase gift cards for over 1,000 retailers, entertainment, grocery and more. Each card is assigned a percentage that is given back to school. And the best part... you get to decide where it goes! It can be applied to your tuition payments at Grace and/or Martin Luther, day care fees or even Sponsor-A Student account to help families receive financial assistance. Please consider purchasing those cards through our program instead of directly at the vendor or retailer! Gail Nowakowski is our Scrip Coordinator. If you would like to take a look at what Scrip cards are available to buy to help support the ministries of Grace, please reach out to Gail or grab A Scrip form on the table in the narthex. Gail's contact information is as follows: 414.423.9261 and/or: gnowakowski@att.net.

Growing In Grace December 9 & 12, 2021

<u>Offering</u>			
General Offering	\$4,161.25	Attendance	136
On-Line Giving	1,457.45	Communed	77
Missions	25.00		
Debt Fund	0.00		
Mortgage Offering	0.00		
Lutheran High	0.00		
Bible Study/Sunday School	0.00		
Total	\$5,643.70		

OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday	12/19	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		9:15 am	Bible Study (school library)
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship
		10:30 am	Divine Worship
Monday	12/20		NO CONFIRMATION
Tuesday	12/21	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @OC Diner
Thursday	12/23		NO WORSHIP SERVICE
		7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	12/24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
		5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday	12/25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship
Sunday	12/26	9:00 am	Divine Worship
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Duane Meyer	414-840-1873
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor	Rev. John Taggatz	pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director	Rachel Miliacca	eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

